

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in the previous application. Those claims were rejected under an obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claims 13-19 are added as new claims, along with claims 1-12.

OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

The Applicants note the obviousness-type double patenting rejection in the case, and would be amenable to filing a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection. This application is commonly owned with U.S. Patent No. 6,692,251, and thus such a terminal disclaimer would be proper to overcome such a rejection.

However, the Applicants are currently adding additional new claims by way of claims 13-19 for consideration. As such, the Applicants would be ready to file the necessary terminal disclaimer at a more suitable time, such as allowance of all the claims in the case. If the application, upon re-examination, appears otherwise in an allowable form, the Examiner is certainly encouraged to telephone the undersigned, who can then immediately file the suitable terminal disclaimer.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 13-19 are presented for examination. Claim 13 is an independent claim that recites an instrument for curing light-curable dental compounds, having a generally bare semiconductor junction and a protective layer covering the semiconductor junction with an optically reflective element coupled to surround the

light-emitting element and protective layer and capture the light generated by the light-emitting element, as disclosed and shown in the drawings.

Claims 14-16 depend from independent claim 13.

Claim 17 is a new independent claim and recites an instrument for curing light-curable dental compounds, comprising a first plurality of light-emitting elements and a second plurality of light-emitting elements, with a protective layer covering the semiconductor junctions of at least of one of the pluralities of light-emitting elements and an optically reflective element coupled to surround at least one of the pluralities of light-emitting elements.

Claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 17.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submits that the currently pending claims are in an allowable form and, therefore, request an indication of such so that a Terminal Disclaimer might be filed at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If any issues remain in the case which might be handled in an expedited fashion, such as through a telephone call or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is certainly encouraged to telephone the Applicant's representative or to issue an Examiner's Amendment.

The Applicants enclose a check for \$450.00 for a two-month extension of time to submit this Response herein. The Applicants know of no additional fees due herein with this submission. However, if any other charges or credits are necessary, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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